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## Senate

(Legislative day of Tuesday, May 10, 2022)

The Senate met at 10 a.m., on the expiration of the recess, and was called to order by the Honorable CATHERINE CORTEZ MASTO, a Senator from the State of Nevada.

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, in a divided nation and world, use our lawmakers to bring order from chaos, harmony from discord, and truth from falsehood. Remind them that You alone are the way, the truth, and the life in good or bad times.

Lord, give our Senators wisdom to provide our Nation and world with exemplary models of excellence, integrity, and faithfulness. Keep them from stumbling or slipping as they face the precarious challenges of today and tomorrow. Lord, do for our legislators more than they can ask or imagine.

And, Lord, continue to strengthen Ukraine.

We pray in Your mighty Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, May 11, 2022.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable CATHERINE CORTEZ MASTO, a Senator from the State of Nevada, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,  
President pro tempore.

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

### EXECUTIVE SESSION

#### MOTION TO DISCHARGE

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the motion to discharge, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A motion to discharge the nomination of Charlotte N. Sweeney, of Colorado, to be United States District Judge for the District of Colorado, from the Committee on the Judiciary.

#### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

#### WOMEN'S HEALTH PROTECTION ACT

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, before the day is over, every Member of this body will make a choice: vote to protect the fundamental rights of women across the country or stand with five conservative Justices ready to destroy these rights in one fell swoop.

For half a century, *Roe v. Wade* has been the bedrock upon which women have secured the freedom to make their own decisions when it comes to their bodies. Few questions are more

personal, more private, and more complicated than those involving a pregnancy. Few decisions should be more out of bounds to the whims and judgments of elected politicians, but that is precisely the doomsday scenario that now faces our country.

Today's vote is one of the most consequential we will take in decades because for the first time in 50 years, a conservative majority—an extreme majority—on the Supreme Court is on the brink of declaring that women do not have freedom over their own bodies—one of the longest steps back in the Court's entire history; a decision, if enacted, that will go down as one of the worst Court decisions ever. The name of the decision will live in infamy.

This morning, reports came out that the draft decision of last week remains the only one under discussion by the Court's conservatives. If the Supreme Court follows through on that decision, it will be the greatest contraction of individual rights in generations. Our children will grow up in a world where they have fewer liberties than those who came before them. The United States, which has always aspired to expand freedoms, will take a shameful step backward. As I said, this decision will live in infamy.

So when we say that today's vote is one of the most important we have taken in decades, when we say it is not an abstract or theoretical exercise, when we say the consequences would be real and immediate and far-reaching, it is the truth.

At least 80 million women live in States that would either instantly or very quickly ban abortions should *Roe* come to an end. If you are a woman seeking an abortion, a provider administering one, or even a friend giving a ride to a clinic, you could be prosecuted as a criminal and be thrown in jail. This is not an exaggeration; it is

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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